

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 158469

64

ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SCI-06 NASA-04 ACDA-19 MC-02

NSF-04 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 FCC-03 INR-10 NSAE-00

OC-06 RSC-01 COME-00 IO-13 DOTE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 CG-00 COA-02 FMC-04 NEA-10 /179 R

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8/9/73 EXT. 22592

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SCI - COL. BASTEDO

EUR/RPE - MR. LIEBOWITZ

NASA - MR. BARNES OT
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R 101909Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, XT

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PAGE 02 STATE 158469

SUBJECT: MARITIME ORBITAL TEST SATELLITE (MAROTS)

REF: A) BRUSSELS 4417 (NOTAL); B) BONN 11299.

1. WASHINGTON POST, REPORTING ON RESULTS ESC MEETING OF JULY 31, SAYS MINISTERS AGREED TO JOINT FINANCING OF MAROTS PROJECT. PERTINENT PARAGRAPH READS THAT MEETING DECIDED ON: "LAUNCHING A SERIES OF BRITISH COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES FOR SHIP-TO-SHORE TRANSMISSIONS OVER THE IMPORTANT OIL ROUTES BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE PERSIAN GULF. THE SATELLITES ARE TO OPERATE OVER THE INDIAN AND ATLANTIC OCEANS AND THE PERSIAN GULF."

2. IN MID-JUNE OF THIS YEAR, BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICIAL MADE INFORMAL APPROACH TO NASA REGARDING POSSIBLE LAUNCH ASSISTANCE FOR MAROTS. IN UK EMBASSY LETTER TO NASA, MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF MAROTS WERE GIVEN AS FOLLOWS: AN EXPERIMENTAL, PREOPERATIONAL GEO-STATIONARY SATELLITE FOR MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS PROBABLY TO BE STATIONED AT 10 (TEN) DEGREES WEST. CAPACITY ABOUT 20 (TWENTY) CHANNELS USING 1.5 TO 1.6 GHZ BETWEEN SATELLITE AND SHIPS WITH FULL EARTH COVERAGE TO SHIPS AND TO SHORE. EXCEPT FOR MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, SATELLITE WAS TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY SAME AS ESRO'S OTS (ORBITAL TEST SATELLITE) AND COULD BE LAUNCHED BY DELTA 2914. PLANNED LAUNCHING DATE WAS EARLY 1977. LETTER STATED THAT "NEITHER A REVENUE PRODUCING SERVICE NOR A REGULAR SERVICE WOULD BE PROVIDED". NASA'S INFORMAL RESPONSE WAS THAT PROJECT AS DESCRIBED WOULD PROBABLY BE ELIGIBLE FOR LAUNCH ASSISTANCE SUBJECT TO USUAL CAVEATS. SINCE THEN, UK HAS NOT RAISED MATTER AGAIN.

3. IN ABSENCE OF AN OFFICIAL ESC PRESS STATEMENT AND IN VIEW CITED EARLIER INFORMAL APPROACH BY UK AND ACTIVE CONSIDERATION MARITIME SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS BY IMCO PANEL OF EXPERTS, EMBASSY LONDON REQUESTED TO MAKE LOW KEY APPROACH FOR FURTHER INFO ON PROJECT. FOR EXAMPLE, NEWS ITEM CITED PARA 1 MAKES NO MENTION THAT PROJECT EXPERIMENTAL WHICH RAISES QUESTION WHETHER NATURE OF PROJECT HAS OR IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 158469

LIKELY TO CHANGE AS A RESULT OF EUROPEANISATION AND IF SO, HOW? WILL IT STILL BE EXPERIMENTAL AND PREOPERATIONAL? WILL IT OBTAIN REVENUE THROUGH CHARGES TO USERS? IS REGULAR SERVICE, EVEN THOUGH LIMITED, ENVISAGED? WILL IT COMPRISE MORE THAN ONE SATELLITE (POST ARTICLE SPEAKS OF "SERIES") - AND, IF MORE THAN ONE, WOULD THIS BE FOR INCREASED AREA COVERAGE OR GREATER RELIABILITY?

4. EMBASSY PARIS REQUESTED MAKE SIMILAR LOW KEY
APPROACH ESRO. ROGERS

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730844/aaaabgkz.tel
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: A) BRUSSELS 4417 (NOTAL); B) BONN 11, 299.
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Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
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Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARITIME ORBITAL TEST SATELLITE (MAROTS)
TAGS: TSPA, XT
To: LONDON PARIS
Type: TE
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